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Letter dated 13 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter (A/62/900) of 1 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to you. Her Majesty's Government rejects the contents of that letter and the claim that the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are an integral part of Argentine national territory.

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The principle of self-determination, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, underlies our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish. The Islanders regularly make it clear that they have no wish either to lose British sovereignty or to become independent.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70.

(*Signed*) John **Sawers**

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